

AUG 08 1996

Mr. Bruce Logue
Branch Manager
Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group, Inc.
354 Doremus Avenue
Newark, NJ 07105

Re: Diamond Alkali Superfund Site
Passaic River Study Area

Dear Mr. Logue:

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("CERCLA"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq., the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is charged with responding to the release and/or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants into the environment and with enforcement responsibilities.

EPA has documented the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants into the Passaic River Study Area ("Study Area"), a part of the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site. Sediments in the Study Area contain numerous hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants that present a risk to the environment and the humans who may ingest contaminated fish and shellfish. Pursuant to CERCLA, EPA is currently overseeing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study being performed at the Study Area under an Administrative Order on Consent signed by Occidental Chemical Corporation.

Pursuant to Section 104(e) of CERCLA, EPA may request information from companies about their operations in and around the Study Area. You may have already received such an Information Request letter or you may expect to receive one. In addition, Sections 106(a) and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9606(a) and §9607(a), allows EPA to notify parties of their potential liability and request that they implement response actions deemed necessary by EPA to protect public health, welfare or the environment, and may be liable for all costs incurred by the government in responding to any release or threatened release at the Site. While to date, you may not have received any notice of potential liability from EPA concerning the Study Area, this does not preclude you from receiving such a notice in the future.

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EPA has scheduled a meeting for 10:00 AM on Thursday, August 29, 1996 to provide more information about the status of work concerning the Study Area to all those parties who have either received a Notice letter or a Request for Information letter. The meeting will be held in Room 305 on the Third Floor at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York. A list of addressees is attached to this letter. EPA encourages you to attend this meeting.

Please be advised that security at 26 Federal Plaza is very strict and that building guards may confiscate any item they consider to be a weapon. In the past, even small pocket knives such as "Swiss Army" knives have been taken from visitors. To clear security as quickly as possible, you should use the Duane Street entrance to 26 Federal Plaza.

If you have any questions concerning this meeting, please contact either Patricia Hick, Esq., at (212) 637-3137 or Amelia Wagner, Esq., at (212) 637-3141 of the Office of Regional Counsel of EPA or Mr. Lance Richman of the Emergency Response and Remedial Division at (212) 637-4409.

Sincerely yours,

Delmar Karlen, Jr., Chief
New Jersey Superfund Branch
Office of Regional Counsel

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CERTIFICATION OF ANSWERS TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

State of _____:

County of _____:

I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document (response to EPA Request for Information) and all documents submitted herewith, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate, and complete, and that all documents submitted herewith are complete and authentic unless otherwise indicated. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment. I am also aware that my company is under a continuing obligation to supplement its response to EPA's Request for Information if any additional information relevant to the matters addressed in EPA's Request for Information or the company's response thereto should become known or available to the company.

NAME (print or type)

TITLE (print or type)

SIGNATURE

Sworn to before me this
day of _____, 19____

Notary Public

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ATTACHMENT A

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Background

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is investigating the release of hazardous substances into the Passaic River. EPA has information indicating that hazardous substances from your facility located at 354 Doremus Avenue in Newark, New Jersey may have been discharged into the Passaic River.

Please provide the information requested below, including copies of all available documentation that supports your answers.

1) How long has your company operated at the facility designated above? If your company no longer operates at this facility, during what years did your company operate at the facility?

2) a) Does your company have or has it in the past had a permit or permits issued pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. §6901 et seq.? If "yes", please provide the years that your company held such a permit and its EPA Identification Number.

b) Does your company have or has it in the past had a permit or permits issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251, et seq.? If "yes", please provide the years that your company held such a permit.

3) Did your company receive, utilize, manufacture, discharge, release, store or dispose of any materials containing the following substances:

	Yes	No
2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin	_____	_____
or other dioxin compounds	_____	_____
Acetaldehyde	_____	_____
Acetic Acid	_____	_____
Acetic anhydride	_____	_____
Acetone	_____	_____
Acrylic Acid	_____	_____
Adipic Acid	_____	_____
Benzene	_____	_____
Ethyl acetate	_____	_____
Ethyl benzene	_____	_____
Formaldehyde	_____	_____
Formic acid	_____	_____
Methanol	_____	_____
Methyl alcohol	_____	_____
Methyl ethyl ketone	_____	_____
Methyl isobutyl ketone	_____	_____

	Yes	No
n-butyl alcohol	_____	_____
Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons	_____	_____
If "yes", please list specific compounds.		
Sulfuric acid	_____	_____
Toluene	_____	_____
Vinyl acetate	_____	_____
Xylene	_____	_____
PCBs	_____	_____
Arsenic	_____	_____
Cadmium	_____	_____
Chromium	_____	_____
Copper	_____	_____
Lead	_____	_____
Mercury	_____	_____
Nickel	_____	_____
Silver	_____	_____
Zinc	_____	_____
Cyanide	_____	_____

4) a) Provide a description of the manufacturing processes for which all hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3), were a product or by-product.

b) During what parts of the manufacturing processes identified in the response to items (4)(a), above, were hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3), generated?

i) Describe the chemical composition of these hazardous substances.

ii) For each process, what amount of hazardous substances was generated per volume of finished product?

iii) Were these hazardous substances combined with wastes from other processes? If so, wastes from what processes?

5) Describe the methods of collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of all hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3) and (4). Include information on the following:

a) Identify all persons who arranged for and managed the processing, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous substances.

b) If hazardous substances were taken off-site by a hauler or transporter, provide the names and addresses of the waste haulers and the disposal site locations.

c) Describe all storage practices employed by your company with respect to all hazardous substances from the time operations commenced until the present. Include all on-site and off-site storage activities.

i) If drums were stored outside, were the drums stored on the ground or were they stored on areas that had been paved with asphalt or concrete? Please provide a complete description of these storage areas.

ii) When drums were stored outside, were empty drums segregated from full drums?

d) What processes do you use to treat your waste? What do you do with the waste after it is treated?

6) a) For process waste waters generated at the facility which contained any hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3) and (4):

i) Was the waste stream discharged into a sanitary sewer and if so, during what years?

ii) Were they treated before being discharged to the sanitary sewer and if so, how? Please be specific.

iii) If the waste waters were not discharged to the sanitary sewer, where were they disposed and during what years?

iv) Please provide the results of any analyses performed on any waste process streams generated at the facility.

b) For floor drains or other disposal drains at the facility:

i) Did the drains connect to a sanitary sewer and if so, during what years?

ii) If the floor drains or other disposal drains at the facility were not discharged to the sanitary sewer, where did they discharge and during what years?

- c) i) Did any storm sewers, catch basins or lagoons exist at any time at the facility and if so, during what years?
- ii) If catch basins or lagoons existed, were they lined or un-lined?
- iii) What was stored in the lagoons?
- iv) Where was the discharge from any of these structures released and during what years? Was this discharge treated before its release and if so, how and during what years? What was the chemical composition of any waste waters released, and during which years?
- d) Please supply diagrams of any waste water collection, transport or disposal systems on the property.
- 7) a) For each hazardous substance, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3) or identified in the responses to item (4), above, provide the total amount generated during the operation of the facility on an annual basis.
- b) Were any hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3) or identified in the responses to item (4), above, disposed of in the Passaic River or discharged to the Passaic River? If yes, identify the hazardous substances, estimate the amount of material discharged to or disposed of in the Passaic River and the frequency with which this discharge or disposal occurred. Also please include any sampling of the river which you might have done after any discharge or disposal.
- 8) a) Please identify any leaks, spills, explosions, fires or other incidents of accidental material discharge that occurred at the facility during which or as a result of which any hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3) or (4), were released on the property, into the waste water or storm drainage system at the facility or to the Passaic River. EPA has information relating to spills at the facility into the Passaic River or its tributary, Plum Creek, in 1976 (methanol), 1979, 1980 (methanol), 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, and 1987 (formic acid). Please provide details on these spills and any measures taken to mitigate the impact of these spills. Provide any documents or information relating to these incidents, including the ultimate disposal of any contaminated materials.
- b) Please provide the results of any sampling of the soil, water, air or other media after any such incident and before and

after clean-up. Please provide in this information all sampling performed for or by NJDEP.

9) a) Was your facility ever subject to flooding. If so, was the flooding due to:

i) overflow from sanitary or storm sewer back-up, and/or

ii) flood overflow from the Passaic River?

b) Please provide the date and duration of each flood event.

10) EPA has information regarding an Administrative Order for Water Pollution Abatement issued to Celanese Chemical Company in August 1969. Please provide a detailed description of this and any other civil, criminal or administrative proceedings against your company for violations of any local, State or federal laws or regulations relating to water pollution or hazardous waste generation, storage, transport or disposal. Provide copies of all pleadings and depositions or other testimony given in these proceedings.

11) Provide a copy of each document which relates to the generation, purchase, use, handling, hauling, and/or disposal of all hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, the substances listed in response to item (3) or (4). If you are unable to provide a copy of any document, then identify the document by describing the nature of the document (e.g. letter, file memo, invoice, inventory form, billing record, hazardous waste manifest, etc.). Describe the relevant information contained therein. Identify by name and job title the person who prepared the document. If the document is not readily available, state where it is stored, maintained, or why it is unavailable.

12) a) Did you or anyone else sample the soil, ground water, surface water, ambient air or other environmental media at the facility for purposes other than those identified in questions above?

b) If so, please provide all other documents pertaining to the results of these analyses.

13) a) Has your company owned the facility at the location designated above? If so, from whom did your company purchase the property and in what year? If your company subsequently sold the property, to whom did your company sell it and in what year? Please provide copies of any deeds and documents of sale.

b) If your company did not own the facility, from whom did your company rent the facility and for what years? Please provide copies of any rental agreements.

c) To the extent that you know, please provide the names of all parties who owned or operated the facility during the period from 1940 through the present. Describe the relationship, if any, of each of those parties with your company.

14) Answer the following questions regarding your business or company. In identifying a company that no longer exists, provide all the information requested, except for the agent for service of process. If your company did business under more than one name, list each name.

- a) State the legal name of your company.
- b) State the name and address of the president or the chairman of the board, or other presiding officers of your company.
- c) Identify the state of incorporation of your company and your company's agent for service of process in the state of incorporation and in New Jersey.
- d) Provide a copy of your company's "Certificate of Incorporation" and any amendments thereto.
- e) If your company is a subsidiary or affiliate of another company, or has subsidiaries, or is a successor to another company, identify these related companies. For each related company, describe the relationship to your company; indicate the date and manner in which each relationship was established.
- f) Identify any predecessor organization and the dates that such company became part of your company.
- g) Identify any other companies which were acquired by your company or merged with your company.
- h) Identify the date of incorporation, state of incorporation, agents for service of process in the state of incorporation and New Jersey, and nature of business activity, for each company identified in the responses to items (14)(e), (f), and (g), above.
- i) Identify all previous owners or parent companies, address(es), and the date change in ownership occurred.

15) Provide the name, address, telephone number, title and occupation of the person(s) answering this "Request for

Information" and state whether such person(s) has personal knowledge of the responses. In addition, identify each person who assisted in any way in responding to the "Request for Information" and specify the question to which each person assisted in responding. Please include the names and addresses of former employees who were contacted to respond to any of the questions.